IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 4, 12, 15, 16, 24-35 and 38-43, add new claim 44, and amend the claims as follows:

1.   (Currently Amended)   A method of displaying hover assistance on a display screen, comprising:

moving a pointer element to a position over a user interface element shown on the display screen in response to user manipulation of a pointing device;

while the pointer element is positioned over the user interface element, invoking a first hover element for display on the display screen; ~~and~~

invoking a second hover element for display on the display screen after invoking the first hover element, ~~and~~ wherein invoking the second hover element is responsive to the pointer element continuing to be positioned over the user interface element[[.]]; and

wherein at least one of the first hover element and the second hover element comprises at least one indication of an action to be performed by a user to cause execution of an associated operation, the at least one indication being user-selectable from the respective hover element by a mouse pointer.

2.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the second hover element provides more detail regarding the user interface element relative to the first hover element.

3.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying the first and second hover elements simultaneously for a period of time and while the pointer element continues to be positioned over the user interface element.

4.   (Canceled)

5.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

removing the pointer element from the position over the user interface element; and

635179_1

removing from display at least one of the first hover element and the second hover element upon removing the pointer element.

6.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the first hover element and the second hover element comprise help text specific to the user interface element.

7.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the first hover element and the second hover element are displayed in a single text box.

8.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first hover element and the second hover element comprises information that is generated using at least one of a flash, video, audio, extensible markup language (XML) and hypertext generation tool.

9.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein invoking the second hover element occurs after one of (i) expiration of a predefined period of time and (ii) a user input command to display the second hover element, whichever occurs first.

10.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein invoking the first hover element occurs after expiration of a first predefined period of time and invoking the second hover element occurs after expiration of a second predefined period of time, wherein the first predefined period of time is shorter than the second predefined period of time and wherein expiration of both the first predefined period of time and the second predefined period of time are calculated from the same event.

11.   (Original)   The method of claim 10, wherein the same event is detecting the pointer element at the position over the user interface element.

12-16. (Canceled)

17.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, further comprising successively invoking a plurality of hover elements after invoking the second hover element.

635179_1

18   (Original)   The method of claim 17, wherein each successive hover element of the plurality of hover elements provides more detail regarding the user interface element relative to each previous hover element.

19.   (Original)   The method of claim 17, wherein invoking of each successive hover element occurs after one of (i) expiration of a predefined period of time and (ii) a user input command to display the successive hover element, whichever occurs first.

20-43. (Canceled)

        Please add the following new claim:

44.   (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the associated operation displays a help window including detailed help specific to the user interface element.